

DISPOSABLE ADHESIVE MULTI-USE BIB

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is entitled to the benefit of provisional patent application no. 60/414,731 entitled "Disposable Adhesive Multi-Use Bib" filed September 30, 2002, and incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a disposable adhesive multi-use bib for protecting the garments of a wearer. More particularly, the bib is useful for entertaining a child or other interested party while waiting, for example, for their food to be served or during a craft project and then for protecting the garments of the child after the food has been served or during a craft project.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

As is known to those skilled in the art, young children often soil themselves, their clothing, and their immediate surroundings during a meal creating clothing stains that are not easily removed. Such problems have typically been mitigated by the use of bibs to cover the area of the torso underneath the mouth of the child. Bibs are well known in the art.

In the home, supervising adults often utilize multi-use fabric or plastic/vinyl bibs that collect misdirected or rejected foodstuffs during mealtime. The soiled bib can then be laundered and reused at the next meal. In a public setting, such as in restaurants, disposable bibs are provided for use by patrons during their visit.

Disposable bibs are well known in the art. Disposable bibs are designed to be worn once and discarded. Generally, a bib includes a functional portion for at least partially covering and protecting a wearer's garments and a fastening portion for fastening the bib to the wearer. Most typically, the fastening portion includes tie cords, hook and loop fasteners, buttons, leads with

5 clips on each end, adhesive-backed straps or tabs, hook and eye or other adhesive configuration. Typical disposable bibs are made of a plastic or paper material and often include a depiction of a red lobster, animal or cartoon character imprinted thereon.

A number of adhesive disposable bibs are also known in the art. U.S. Patent No. 3,979,776 to Gruenwald discloses a bib using adhesive straps to secure the bib to the wearer's shoulders. U.S. Patent No. 3,995,321 to Johnson discloses a disposable bib having a food catching pocket held open by adhesive tabs secured to a supporting surface such as a table and an adhesive tab to secure the bib's neck closure. U.S. Patent No. 5,491,844 to Kehl discloses a disposable bib for use by dental patients having a strip of pressure sensitive adhesive across the top edge of the back of the bib. U.S. Patent No. 6,079,048 to Campbell discloses a self-adhesive napkin having adhesive material located along at least the top edge thereof. U.S. Patent 15 6,256,788 to Loewer discloses a bib of absorbent material having a neck cut-out in the upper end and a pressure sensitive adhesive disposed over substantially the entire back surface of the bib except for an un-coated border surrounding the neck cut-out. In another embodiment of Loewer, the pressure sensitive adhesive is applied in strips running from top to bottom near the sides of 20 the back side of the bib. U.S Patent No. 6,413,603 to Horton et al. discloses a placemat having intergrated adhesive stickers or labels used as decorations for the placemat.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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According to the present invention there is provided a disposable adhesive bib that includes a sheet component with an upper edge, a lower edge and first and second edges and a wearable component that has a front and back surface. Substantially all of the back surface is coated with an adhesive. So that the wearable component may be releasably disposed within an area of the sheet component defined by the upper and lower edges and first and second edges of the sheet component. Upon use, the wearable component is removed from the sheet component and the sheet component may be retained for covering an eating surface.

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According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided a disposable adhesive bib that includes a sheet component with an upper edge, a lower edge, first and second edges, and front and back surfaces. The back surface of the sheet component is coated with an adhesive and a liner is disposed over the adhesive. The disposable bib further includes a wearable component that is a sub-component of the sheet component and that has an upper edge, a lower edge, first and second edges, the wearable component is removable from the wearable component and the liner. The sheet component and wearable component are configured to cover at least a portion of an eating surface.

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According to another aspect, there is provided a tablecloth with integrated disposable bibs. The tablecloth includes a table surface covering component and a wearable component that has an upper and lower edge, a first and second side, and a front back surface. The back surface includes an adhesive for releasably securing the wearable component to a wearer and for releasably securing the wearable component to the table surface covering component.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a top view of a disposable bib according to an embodiment of the invention.

Figure 2a is a perspective view of a continuous roll of disposable bibs shown in Figure 1.

Figure 2b is a perspective view of another embodiment of continuous roll of disposable

10 bibs.

Figure 2c is a side view of a package of a plurality of the disposable bibs shown in Figure

1.

Figure 3 is a top view of a disposable bib according to an embodiment of the invention.

Figure 4 is a top view of tablecloth provided with a plurality of disposable bibs according

15 to an embodiment of the invention.

Figure 5a is a top view of a placemat incorporating a disposable bib with the bib adhered to the placemat according to an embodiment of the invention.

Figure 5b is a top view of the placemat shown in Figure 5a with the bib removed from the placemat.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Figure 1 depicts one embodiment of a disposable bib of the present invention. Although discussed primarily with respect to children, it should be appreciated that the bib ~~the bib~~ of the ^{the bib of the} subject invention is equally suitable for adult use. The bib includes a sheet component 10 and a wearable component 12, the wearable component 12 being a sub-component of the sheet component 10. In a preferred embodiment, the sheet component is a placemat. In figure 1, the sheet component 10 and the wearable component 12 are both generally rectangular. However, both components may be configured of any desired shape. Likewise, the shape of the sheet component 10 and wearable component 12 need not match. For example, the sheet component may be oval and the wearable component 12 configured as a rectangle within the oval. Additionally, the sheet 10 and wearable 12 components may be of any size depending on the use to which the bib is put and personal preferences.

The wearable component 12 includes a bottom edge 14, a top edge 16, first 18 and second side edges 20, and a front surface 22 and back surface 24. The top edge 16 preferably

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5 includes a cut out 26 approximately midway between the first side edge 18 and the second side edge 20 for accommodating the neck of a wearer. The cut out is depicted in the Figures (including Figure 1) as a U-shape, however, the cut out may be configured in any shape, such as for example, a square or triangle. In addition, there may not be a cutout and the wearable component may be square or rectangular. The back surface 24 is substantially coated with an adhesive material for releasably adhering the wearable component 12 to the sheet component 10 and then to a wearer during use.

The sheet component 10 has a front surface 28 and a back surface, the back surface of the sheet component is not visible in the drawings but opposes the front surface 28. In one embodiment, the wearable component 12 is a subcomponent of the sheet component 10. Thus, 15 the back surface of the sheet component 10 is substantially coated with an adhesive material. In this embodiment, a liner 38 overlies the adhesive to prevent adhesion to surfaces. The wearable component 12 is preferably die-cut within the sheet component 10 so that it may be removed from the sheet component 10 and the liner 38. For use, the wearable component 12 is peeled away from the liner 38, separating the wearable component 12 from the sheet component 10 and 20 exposing the adhesive coated back surface 24. The adhesive coated back surface 24 of the wearable component 12 is pressed against a garment for protecting the portion of the garment covered by the wearable component 12 from soiling.

In an alternative embodiment, which would appear identical in 2-dimensions to the embodiment described in Figure 1, the wearable component 12 is formed separately from the 25 sheet component 10. That is, unlike the embodiment already described, the wearable component is not die-cut from the sheet component but rather is cut from a separate supply of material enabling the wearable component 12 and sheet component 10 to be formed of different material. For example, the sheet component could be formed of an inexpensive paper whilst the wearable component 12 could be formed of a more durable liquid impervious or absorbent material. In 30 this embodiment, depending on the materials chosen for the sheet component 10, the sheet component 10 may include an area formed of a material to which the adhesive covered wearable component 12 can be releasably attached so that the wearable component 12 can be easily removed from the sheet component and adhered to a wearer. Thus, the wearable component 12 is the only component whose back surface is coated with an adhesive. Alternatively, the sheet 35 component 10 could be formed of a material that is sufficiently slick to be used as a liner so that

5 the wearable component 12 can be applied to a front surface of the sheet component without the need for the addition of a material from which the wearable component is readily released.

In any embodiment, the sheet component 10 and wearable component 12 may be constructed of any suitable material. For example, the wearable component may be constructed of a single layer of paper/vinyl, fabric, or plastic material. Alternatively, the wearable component may be composed of multiple layers with a moisture impervious backing to prevent liquid from contacting the garment and one or more layers of an absorbent material to prevent foodstuffs from dripping onto the garments of the wearer. Preferably, the material is sufficiently flexible to prevent crinkling or buckling when adhered to a garment.

The adhesive used to coat the back surface of the wearable component and/or sheet component preferably has a low tack characteristic so that it is readily releasable from the wearer following use of the wearable component without leaving adhesive residue, yet has sufficient adhesiveness to secure the wearable component during use. The adhesive may be pressure sensitive so that it secures the wearable component to the wearer once the wearable component is pressed against the garment.

20 In a preferred embodiment, the wearable component is made of a paper/vinyl mix with a pressure sensitive adhesive applied to the entire back surface of the wearable component. Thus, when the bib is placed on the child, the child can not readily lift the bib away from his or her clothing to soil the clothing.

Figure 2a-2c illustrate methods of dispensing the disposable bib according to an embodiment of the invention. As is shown, in Figure 2a a plurality of sheets components 10 with wearable components 12 may be detachably connected end-to-end, separated by perforations and provided on a roll, similar to a paper towel roll, so that individual bibs may be easily detached along the perforation. Alternatively, a continuous roll (without perforations) may be provided and individual bibs may be manually cut, peeled from the roll, or otherwise separated from the bib immediately adjacent. Similarly, in Figure 2b, a continuous roll of disposable bibs is illustrated. In this embodiment, the sheet component 10 is minimized to conserve materials. Once the wearable component 12 is removed, the minimized sheet component 12 can be retained for use as a placemat.

Figure 2c is a sideview of a plurality of disposable bibs stacked one on top of each other. The edge of each sheet component 10 is visible in this view. The stack 11 may be secured as

or the stack of bibs may be individually in a container

lost 9/14/03
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5 with shrink wrapping (shown in phantom in the Figure) or bundled with string or ribbon. Alternately, a strip of adhesive can be applied along an edge of the stack 11 so that each bib is removably secured to one another. Upon use, an individual bib is torn off the stack.

10 The sheet component may be sized and shaped in a variety of configurations. For example, in one embodiment, as depicted in Figure 1, the sheet component is sized and shaped to be suitable for use as a placemat to overlay a table or other surface, such as a tray, in the wearer's eating area. Although in Figure 1 the sheet component 10 is shown as a rectangle, it should be appreciated that the sheet component 10 can be provided in other shapes.

15 Alternatively, as shown in figure 3, the sheet component 10 may be sized and shaped to fit in the tray portion 40 of a high chair (not shown). In this embodiment, the sheet component 10 may be sized and shaped to follow the contours of the high chair tray 40 or may be formed of any shape in a size that fits within the boundaries of the tray.

Figure 4 illustrates yet another embodiment wherein a plurality of disposable bibs 12 are provided on the sheet component 10 that may be sized and configured to function as a tablecloth. The plurality of bibs 12 may be spaced apart from one another to function as place settings (shown in phantom in the drawing). The sheet 10 may be formed of plastic, fabric, paper or any other material and may further include sections of a sufficiently slick material to which the bibs may be releasably attached so that the bibs may be easily removed from the tablecloth for use. The tablecloth could be used at birthday parties or other occasion and decorated with birthday themes or other appropriate themes. The tablecloth sheets may be provided pre-cut to accommodate a variety of the table shapes and sizes. Alternatively, the sheet may be provided on a continuous roll and cut-to-order for custom sizing to accommodate any specific need.

For any of the embodiments already described, the sheet component and/or wearable component can advantageously be designed so as to be suitable for providing entertainment to a child. For example, the tablecloth, placemat, and/or bib may be self-decorated by the child or other interested party. An example of several of the many decorative and entertaining possibilities are shown in Figures 5a and 5b. The sheet component 10 and the wearable component 12 may be designed for coloring on by a child and/or include games such as crossword puzzles 42, connect-the dot puzzles, tic-tac-toe boards 44, and riddles, for example. Alternately, the sheet component and wearable component may incorporate a super hero theme with the bib, for example, being a part of a superhero costume. The sheet component may also

5 incorporate, for example, a kid's menu 46 for a restaurant or advertisement with the company logo.

The sheet component 10 may be decorated with themes such as dinosaurs, animals, or cartoons or other objects attractive to children. Additionally, the sheet may include shapes in which the children can fill in with color or open spaces for free-hand art. In one embodiment, 10 the wearable components cover up numbers, letters, or other indicia that can be used to indicate the winner of a lottery for a prize, so that the child that uncovers the pre-selected number, letter or other indicia collects a prize. Alternatively, any specific number, letter, or other indicia may correlate to a specific prize so that each child is the recipient of a reward.

In another embodiment the surface of the bib includes a riddle, puzzle, or spelling or 15 math problem and the answer is printed underneath the bib so that the child can check his or her answer by removing the bib. As an example only, Figures 5a and 5b and illustrate one possible spelling lesson. Figure 5a illustrates a disposable bib with the wearable component 12 still adhered to the sheet component 10. The wearable component 12 includes the letter "B" printed thereon. Figure 5b illustrates the same disposable bib with the wearable component 12 removed. 20 As can be seen, a depiction of a ball 48, a word that begins with the letter "B", is revealed to assist the child in learning the alphabet. This spelling riddle can be repeated with any letter of the alphabet and any corresponding depiction of any object whose name begins with the letter printed on the wearable component.

In addition, the sheet component may include removable stickers that the child can use to 25 decorate the sheet component, wearable component or both. In one example, the wearable component may be decorated with a landscape such as a prehistoric desert. Stickers of various dinosaurs that existed in such an environment may be provided on the sheet component. The child can populate the landscape shown on the wearable component with the dinosaur stickers.

The possibilities for decorating the sheet and wearable components are innumerable and 30 should not be limited to the examples described herein.

While various embodiments in accordance with the present invention have been shown and described, it is understood that the invention is not limited thereto, and is susceptible to numerous changes and modifications as known to those skilled in the art. Therefore, this invention is not limited to the details shown and described herein, and includes all such changes 35 and modifications as encompassed by the scope of the appended claims.